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25 November 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Andrew Steinfeld  
Arabian Peninsula Affairs, NEA

FROM:   
Arabian Peninsula Branch, PG/NESA

SUBJECT: Evaluation of American Embassy  
Sanaa Reporting 25X1

1. This office commends American Embassy Sanaa for its excellent reporting during the period October 1982 through September 1983. The Embassy's spot cables as well as its lengthier assessments provide essential data for our research. The Embassy has focused on the major developments--the winding down of the NDF insurgency, the desperate straits of the YAR economy, and the growth in the political strength of the Muslim Brotherhood and the Yemeni right.

2. We find the quarterly reviews of the YAR's economic performance particularly useful. We also believe the Embassy is providing a good cross section of material in its weekly press summary. We hope these serial reports are continued.

3. Among longer reports we note the following as particularly useful examples:

-- The Zaydi Tribes of the YAR: The Fading Warpath (Sanaa 3487)

-- Saudi-Yemeni Relations: An Update (Sanaa 3846)

-- The Regime and the Military: Yemen's Key Synergism (Sanaa 4718)

4. We recognize the limitations on Embassy staffers' time and the difficulty of getting about in the YAR, but we urge that the Embassy expand its program of travel through the provinces. We could use a good deal more of the reporting found in Sanaa 0296 (Trip Report on Tribal Areas of Eastern YAR: Marib and Khawlan). A periodic assessment of the quality and the extent of

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government control exercised in the provincial centers and environs would be particularly useful.

5. We would also like to see more reporting from Taizz. If one accepts that North Yemen is essentially two countries, a Zaydi north and a Shafi'i south, it is essential that we get a better appreciation of the view from Taizz.

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